

**SACHIN DHEERAJ MUDIGONDA, M.F.A.**

Assistant Professor, Department of Mass Communication

Sam Houston State University

[sachindheeraj@shsu.edu](mailto:sachindheeraj@shsu.edu) | 936.294.1344**EDUCATION**

M.F.A. Film &amp; Media Production, The University of Texas at Austin, USA

August 2022

M.S. Software Engineering, Arizona State University, USA

December 2015

B.Tech. Information &amp; Communication Technology, DAIICT, India

August 2013

**EMPLOYMENT HISTORY****Zappos**

February 2016 - July 2018

Role: Software Engineer

Specialization: Mobile Application Developer

Responsibilities: Maintained and improved the shopping experience of mobile customers, delivering an optimized experience for a growing platform. Created pixel-perfect features that work well from a 3.5" phone to a 10" tablet. Designed, brainstormed, and split-tested various features through deployment.

**FILMOGRAPHY*****Testimony of Ana***

November 2020

Role: Director, Editor, Producer

Format, Duration: Digital Documentary, 24 minutes

Status: In Distribution

Logline: Anaben Pawar is an elderly tribal woman accused of witchcraft in rural India. Through Ana's story, we delve into a deep-rooted culture of patriarchy and examine monstrous attacks on women: the witch-hunt.

Official Selections and Wins: National Film Awards of India 2020 (**Swarna Kamal/Golden Lotus for Best Non-Feature Film**), EnergaCAMERIMAGE International Film Festival 2021 (Oscar-qualifying), Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival 2021 (Oscar-qualifying), Krakow Film Festival 2021 (Oscar-qualifying), Raindance Film Festival 2021 (Oscar-qualifying), International Documentary and Short Film Festival of Kerala 2021 (**Best Short Documentary: Oscar-qualifying Win**), St. Louis International Film Festival 2021 (Oscar-qualifying), FIPADOC 2022, Signs Film Festival 2022 (**Special Mention, Cinema of Resistance**), Indie Meme Film Festival 2022 (**Audience Choice Award, Best Short Film**)

Reviews: [Movie Blogger](#) (Film Critic J.P. Gordon reviews the doc *Testimony of Ana*. May 12th, 2021), [UK Film Review](#) (*Testimony of Ana* reviewed by Film Critic Joye Cowan. May 6th, 2021).

Distribution Deals: **Kinoscope** (Released), **MUBI India** (Yet to Release - Scheduled for Sep 16, 2022)

***The Bubbleman***

December 2018

Role: Director, Editor, Producer

Format, Duration: Digital Documentary. 9 minutes

Status: Released, On Vimeo

Logline: A veteran deployed to Afghanistan as an electrician is now impacting students' lives by blowing delightful, soapy, iridescent orbs into our existence.

Official Selections: Cinequest Film & Creativity Festival 2020 (Oscar-qualifying), SXSW Denius Longhorn Showcase 2019, Cine Las Americas International Film Festival 2019, Austin After Dark Film Festival 2019 (**Best Short Documentary Film Winner**), Lone Star Film Festival 2019, Indie Meme Film Festival 2019, Lost River Film Festival 2019, Film-Ed International Student Film Festival 2019, Flickers' Roving Eye International Film Festival 2020.

Semi-Finalist: Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival 2019, AT&T Film Awards 2019.

Reviews: [Fortworth Weekly](#) (LSFF Special Mention by Kristian Lin. November 20th, 2019).

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

***Men in Blue*** (Expected) December 2022

Role: Director, Editor, Writer

Project Type: M.F.A. Thesis Film

Format, Duration: Digital Narrative, 35 minutes

Status: In Post-Production

Logline: Resistance brews among the Indian immigrant workers who were stripped of their dignity as a reputed shipyard in Texas conscripted them to repair the damaged ships after Hurricane Katrina.

***Anantham (Endless)*** (Expected) December 2023

Role: Director, Editor, Producer

Project Type: Post-Graduation Feature Film

Format, Duration: Digital Documentary, 90 minutes

Status: In Development

Logline: Set in the small-deltaic island of South-East India called Diviseema, the film documents the lives of indigenous fisherfolk combating climate change by living on its frontlines.

***Erosions*** (Expected) April 2023

Role: Director, VR Application Developer

Project Type: President's Award for Global Learning (PAGL) Project

Format, Duration: 360° 3D VR Documentary, 10 minutes

Status: In Post-Production

Logline: This immersive VR experience explores the coastal sand dunes in South Padre Island. The viewer gets a first-hand experience of witnessing lighter silica sand erosion and magnetite (black sand).

***Treaty Oak Project*** (Expected) April 2023

Role: Director, VR Application Developer

Project Type: Bureau for Experimental Ethnography (BEE) Project

Format, Duration: 360° 3D VR Documentary, 7 minutes

Status: In Post-Production

Logline: This immersive VR experience recognizes indigenous histories in Austin, Texas.

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## CINEMATOGRAPHY WORKS

### *A Stray Calf*

August 2021

Director: Sebastián Valdivieso

Format, Duration: Digital Narrative, 14 minutes

Status: Completed, In Festival Circuit

Logline: Buck, an aging Texas rancher, grapples with the future of his farm while trying to care for a wayward calf.

Equipment Used: Sony F5 with Cooke Prime Lenses

### *The Birthday*

December 2018

Director: Sachin Dheeraj Mudigonda

Format, Duration: Digital Narrative, 7 minutes

Status: Released, On Vimeo

Logline: An old woman on vacation tries to celebrate her birthday.

Official Selections: Virgin Spring Cinefest 2019 (Gold Award for Best Cinematography), Lift-Off Global Network 2019

Equipment Used: Sony F3 with Cine-Alta Prime Lenses

### *Microsoft Surface Pro 3*

August 2015

Director: Daniel Escolin

Format, Duration: Digital Commercial, 1 minute

Status: Released, On Vimeo

Logline: Shot a commercial for the *Microsoft Surface Pro 3 - The Editor* to showcase the perks of using editing software on the tablet.

Equipment Used: Blackmagic Cinema Camera with Zeiss Prime Lenses

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## TEACHING INTERESTS

**Directing Documentary, Narrative & Immersive VR**

**Avid Media Composer (Certified)**

**Adobe Premiere Pro & After Effects**

**Cinematography - Digital (BM, Sony, Canon, Panasonic)**

**Final Draft (Screenwriting)**

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## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

**New Filmmaker Program Equipment Grant, Panavision** March 2022

Received the competitive Panavision New Filmmaker Program Equipment Grant for the *Men in Blue* film, which provides the use of the entire Panavision digital camera package for production.

**University Graduate Continuing Fellowship, UT Austin** August 2021

The total value of the award is \$44,000 given to support the final year of an outstanding graduate student.

**Moody Innovation Grant for Thesis Film, UT Austin** June 2021

Received Production support from The University of Texas at Austin for the *Men in Blue* film.

**AFS Grant for Shorts Projects, Austin Film Society** December 2020

Received distribution support from Austin Film Society for the short documentary film, *Testimony of Ana*.

**President's Award for Global Learning, UT Austin** November 2020

As part of this prestigious award, the winning team receives \$15,000 to implement a Virtual Reality research project in the Summer of 2021.

**Moody Innovation Grant for Pre-Thesis Film, UT Austin** September 2020

Received Post-Production support from The University of Texas at Austin for the *Testimony of Ana* film.

**Dina Sherzer Award for Documentary Filmmaking, UT Austin** June 2020

Received Production support from The University of Texas at Austin for the *Testimony of Ana* film.

**Nicholas Cominos Award for Documentary Filmmaking, UT Austin** May 2019

Received Pre-Production support from The University of Texas at Austin for the *Testimony of Ana* film.

**Graduate School Creative II Fellowship, UT Austin** August 2018

This recruitment fellowship fully supports the first-year studies of a promising graduate student with merit.

## SERVICE AND MENTORSHIP

**Camp Resident Assistant and Mentor, Texas Global, UT Austin** November 2020 - Present

Serving as a graduate mentor for a team of four undergraduates from the Department of Natural Sciences. Currently guiding them in implementing their VR research project.

## FILM PROGRAMMING AND JURY WORK

**Programmer, Indie Meme Film Festival** May 2019 - May 2020

Participated in various film discussions with fellow programmers for almost a year and helped curate the line-up for the fifth annual Indie Meme Film Festival in 2020.

**Member of Jury, Indie Meme Film Festival**

April 2020 - May 2020

Served as a jury member for the Short Films Competition section for high-school students in the fifth annual Indie Meme Film Festival in 2020.

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**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS****International Documentary Association (IDA)**

Since 2021

The International Documentary Association (IDA) supports the vital work of documentary storytellers and champions a thriving and inclusive documentary culture.

**Bureau for Experimental Ethnography (BEE)**

Since 2020

A place where critical experimentation in visual media such as VR, sound, text, and other haptic forms occur.

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**TEACHING EXPERIENCE****Instructor**

Summer 2021 &amp; Summer 2020

Course, University: Documentary Filmmaking - Telling a Personal Story, UT Austin

Medium, Duration: Online, Two Semesters

Responsibilities: Designed and developed a one-month online production and post-production intensive summer workshop for adults in introductory documentary filmmaking as part of the UT summer camp. Delivered two weekly two-hour lectures (10 students) to non-film majors from diverse backgrounds. Topics covered included creative strategies within archival research, documentary storytelling techniques, editing with multiple media formats, and designing sound in any NLE platform. Each student produced a 5-10 mins short non-fiction film at the end of the workshop, from conception to execution.

**Graduate Teaching Assistant & Lab Instructor**

Spring 2021, Spring 2020 &amp; Fall 2019

Course, University: Introduction to Image and Sound (RTF 318), UT Austin

Medium, Duration: In-Person & Online, Three Semesters

Responsibilities: Assisted Professor in two weekly lectures (200 students) and taught one weekly three-hour laboratory session (20 students) to undergraduate students from diverse backgrounds. Topics covered included photography, cinematography, directing, scriptwriting, introduction to documentary, audio fundamentals, sound design and recording, editing, and VFX. Each student produced a still photography project (12-15 images), a short documentary project (5 mins) & a short narrative project (5 mins) at the end of the semester as part of this introductory undergraduate course.

**Graduate Teaching Assistant & Lab Instructor**

Spring 2021

Course, University: Advanced Documentary Production (RTF 343), UT Austin

Medium, Duration: In-Person & Online, One Semester

Responsibilities: Assisted Professor in two weekly lectures (10 students) and taught one weekly three-hour laboratory session (10 students) to undergraduate students from diverse backgrounds. Topics covered included directing documentaries, audio fundamentals, sound design and recording, editing, and lighting with minimal resources. Each student produced a semester-long short documentary project (15 mins) at the end of the semester as part of this advanced undergraduate course.

**Graduate Teaching Assistant & Lab Instructor**

Fall 2020

Course, University: Principles of Documentary Filmmaking (RTF 881KA), UT Austin

Medium, Duration: In-Person & Online, One Semester

Responsibilities: Assisted Professor in one weekly lecture (12 students) and taught one weekly three-hour laboratory session (12 students) to graduate students from diverse backgrounds. Topics covered included directing documentaries, audio fundamentals, sound design and recording, editing, and lighting with minimal resources. Each student produced a semester-long short documentary project (15 mins) at the end of the semester as part of this introductory graduate course.

**Graduate Teaching Assistant and Lab Instructor**

Fall 2020

Course, University: Narrative Production (RTF 366K), UT Austin

Medium, Duration: In-Person and Online, One Semester

Responsibilities: Assisted Professor in two weekly lectures (30 students) and taught one weekly three-hour laboratory session (15 students) to undergraduate students from diverse backgrounds. Topics covered included screenwriting, pre-production basics, cinematography, directing fiction, and editing. Each student completed lab quizzes, wrote screenplays, and completed a final narrative project (10-15 mins) at the end of the semester as part of this advanced undergraduate course.

**Graduate Teaching Assistant and Lab Instructor**

Spring 2020

Course, University: Producing for Film and TV (RTF 367K), UT Austin

Medium, Duration: In-Person, One Semester

Responsibilities: Assisted Professor in two weekly lectures (60 students) and team-taught one weekly three-hour laboratory session (20 students) to undergraduate students from diverse backgrounds. Topics covered included pitching and using a studio binder for pre-production paperwork. Each student completed a final producing project (30-page bible) at the end of the semester as part of this advanced undergraduate course.

**Graduate Teaching Assistant and Lab Instructor**

Fall 2019

Course, University: Introduction to Editing (RTF 346), UT Austin

Medium, Duration: In-Person, One Semester

Responsibilities: Assisted Professor in two weekly lectures (40 students) and taught one weekly three-hour laboratory session (20 students) to undergraduate students from diverse backgrounds. Topics covered included Avid Media Composer fundamentals, sound design, and advanced editing techniques. Each student completed lab quizzes, re-edited scenes from *Madmen*, and completed a documentary editing project (10 min mixed fine cuts) at the end of the semester as part of this advanced undergraduate course.

**Assistant Instructor and Graduate Teaching Associate**

Fall 2015, Spring 2015 &amp; Fall 2014

Domain, University: Software Engineering, Arizona State University

Medium, Duration: In-Person, Three Semesters

Responsibilities: Assisted Professor in two weekly lectures (60 students) and independently taught one weekly three-hour laboratory session (30 students) to undergraduate students from diverse backgrounds. Courses taught were Introduction to Data Structures and Algorithms, Principles of Distributed Software Systems, Object-Oriented Software Development, and Mobile Computing.

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## PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING

### Supervised Teaching in Radio-Television-Film

Fall 2020

Professor, University: Charles Ramirez Berg, UT Austin

Medium, Duration: Online, One Semester

Learning Outcomes: Designed and developed syllabi that include learning outcomes and a roadmap for an advanced graduate filmmaking course called *Documenting Sensibilities* and an introductory undergraduate filmmaking course called *Introduction to Film & Media Production*. Some of the topics covered include rules for effective teaching, Bloom's Taxonomy variations, Chronicle of Higher Education, Promoting Active Learning, Teaching Methods, and Strategies, Key Teaching techniques, Teaching different class sizes, Ethics of Teaching, The Four Box theory, and Teaching multiple intelligences. Developed a Teaching Portfolio at the end of the semester

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## PRESS COVERAGE

### [Lights, Camera, Austin, Interview](#)

April 21st, 2022

Sachin Dheeraj Mudigonda, Director of "Testimony of Ana", Interview by Robert Sims.

### [KUT 90.5, Interview](#)

April 14th, 2022

"*Testimony of Ana*," a documentary about a woman in rural India who is accused of using witchcraft, will be shown at the 7th Indie Meme Film Festival on Sunday, April 17th, 2022.

### [Cinestaan, Article](#)

December 23rd, 2021

"Testimony of Ana" wins the top award at IDSFFK 2021.

### [Zeiss, Interview](#)

December 21st, 2021

Resiliency In Blue: A Tale of Rural Gujarat Filmed with Zeiss CP.3s.

### [The Hindu, Article](#)

December 10th, 2021

Sachin Dheeraj Mudigonda's Short Documentary 'Testimony Of Ana' is about a Gujarati woman who was branded a witch and attacked.

### [24.HU, Article](#)

November 13th, 2021

Witch-Hunters, Own Demons, Tribal Prejudices: The Female Doctors of the Verzio defy them.

### [Medium, Authority Magazine, Interview](#)

June 24th, 2021

Filmmakers Making A Social Impact: Why and How Director Sachin Dheeraj Mudigonda Is Helping To Change Our World.

[The New Indian Express - Edex Live, Interview](#)

June 12th, 2021

Anatomy of a witch-hunt in modern India: Why you need to watch Sachin Mudigonda's documentary *Testimony of Ana*.

[Indian NewsLink, Interview](#)

June 12th, 2021

Heart-wrencher depicts pernicious patriarchy.

[Drm.am, The Videoplugger Blog, Interview](#)

June 10th, 2021

Interview with Sachin Dheeraj Mudigonda on his short film *Testimony of Ana*.

[Frontier India, Interview](#)

June 7th, 2021

*Testimony of Ana*, a tale of witchcraft allegations in the hinterlands.

[Film Craziest, Interview](#)

May 31st, 2021

Short Doc *Testimony of Ana* interview. Director Sachin Dheeraj Mudigonda at the Film Craziest show.

[Vegas Film Critic, Interview](#)

May 21st, 2021

Vegas Film Critic (Jeffrey K. Howard) speaks to Director Sachin Dheeraj Mudigonda for his short film, *Testimony of Ana*.

[Videoblogg Press, Interview](#)

May 14th, 2021

In this episode of Who's on Their Way, Robyn Richford speaks to Indian film director Sachin Dheeraj to discuss his upcoming film *Testimony to Ana*.

[The Print, Interview](#)

May 13th, 2021

This documentary tells a common but unheard and tragic story of a 'witch' in India.

[Viddy Well, Film Blog, Interview](#)

May 6th, 2021

Rage And Resistance: Sachin Dheeraj Mudigonda On His Short *Testimony Of Ana*.

[Film and TV Now, Interview](#)

May 6th, 2021

Interview Special: Sachin Dheeraj Mudigonda on *Testimony Of Ana*.

[Hindustan Times, Article](#)

March 25th, 2021

Two Indian entries in North America's biggest documentary film festival.

[Sightlines, Article](#)

December 16th, 2020

Austin Film Society names recipients of 2020 short film grants.

[The Austin Chronicle, Article](#)

December 16th, 2020

AFS Announces 2020 Short Film Grant Recipients.



[Ex Bulletin, Article](#)

November 20th, 2020

UT Austin students to tackle global challenges on 3 continents.

[Lights Camera Austin, Interview](#)

May 2nd, 2019

*The Bubbleman* director Sachin Dheeraj Mudigonda interview by Robert Sims.

[The University Star, Article](#)

October 16th, 2018

Bubble Believers begin filming the documentary.

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